

A BONFIRE OF LIES**Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**

Thank you. I am **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)** and I live near Nemo, SD. My theme today will be lies, cowardice, laziness, hypocrisy, cynicism, Native rights, and Azarga's and the EPA's role in environmental destruction or protection. First let us say that there are good people in the EPA who want to do good things, and have done a few good things. Perhaps some are in this room. BUT my message to you, the EPA, today is—don't be lazy. Don't be a coward. Stand up against Trump's war on the environment. Be like the employees of the Badlands Park Service who posted the TRUTH about climate change on the website. When you rule on this draft permit, speak truth to power.

Today those of you from the EPA will be hearing or reading some good science, and some bad science. The good science will be from community members opposed to pollution of our precious Black Hills aquifers. The bad pseudo-science—let's call it alternative science-- will be from Azarga. EPA, believe the community members. Follow up on the sources we provide to you and decide to stand for the truth, that the in situ leaching will allow poisons into Black Hills aquifers. Learn these truths—that Black Hills aquifers are permeable—they leak into each other, so there is no way to sequester the toxic byproducts of in situ leaching. And second, learn that ISL may use horrific chemicals like sulfuric acid to do its gruesome dirty work.

Let's talk about hypocrisy and cynicism. It is breathtakingly cynical for Azarga and other mining forces to stand before us today and say that they will clean up after their mining activities. They cannot restore leached water to its prior condition, and they know it. Consider this quote from the US Geological Survey: "To date, no remediation of an ISL operation in the US has successfully returned the aquifer to baseline conditions."

And Azarga are crooks to boot! Their stock is worth pennies, and Platinum Partners, which owns 30 % of Azarga stock, is under an

indictment that basically describes Platinum Partners as a Ponzi scheme, according to the Rapid City Journal and other sources. So even IF Azarga intended to use the most advanced monitoring and cleanup methods on the Dewey-Burdock site, they wouldn't be able to afford it. The people of Custer and Fall River counties will be left with toxic water and the bill to pay for it! Pay for it with the health of their children, their stock, and their livelihoods.

How about let's talk about the opposite of cowardice—courage. Let's look at what REAL environmental protection looks like. I think it looks like the Native American folks who stood tall at Standing Rock, defending the earth and the water against scum like the Dakota Access Pipeline, and those who stood against the KXL pipeline. We here in this room need to follow the leadership of those proud Native folks and their allies to defeat Dewey Burdock.

We community members here in this room are all allies against environmental destruction. We invite you, the employees of the EPA, to stand for Mother Earth, to stand for clean water, to stand for the principles that probably caused you to seek employment there in the first place. Stand against these mining permits.

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